

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 9, without prejudice; and amend claims 1-8. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~thin-film~~ single pole magnetic head comprising:

an auxiliary pole;

~~a magnetic main pole major layer~~ terminated at a position receding from a medium-opposed surface, the main pole having a rear magnetically connected to the auxiliary pole and a lower surface opposed to the auxiliary pole;

an intermediate magnetic layer extending forward toward the medium-opposed surface from ~~a~~ an upper surface of the ~~main pole~~ major layer, ~~said intermediate magnetic layer terminated~~ main pole and terminating at a position receding from the medium-opposed surface; and

~~a tip magnetic layer extending to the medium-opposed surface from~~ ~~a~~ an upper surface of the intermediate magnetic layer, ~~the tip magnetic layer getting and being exposed~~ at the medium-opposed surface.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin-film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned

closer to the medium-opposed surface than a front end of the magnetic main pole major layer is.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a primary magnetic pole tip region is defined in the tip magnetic layer, the primary magnetic pole tip region extending rearward from the medium-opposed surface, keeping a constant lateral width.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein a front end of the intermediate magnetic layer is positioned closer to the medium-opposed surface than a rear end of the primary magnetic pole tip region is.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 3, wherein the primary magnetic pole tip region has a front end surface exposed at the medium-opposed surface, a leading edge of the front end surface being reduced in lateral width than a trailing edge of the front end surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin-film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the ~~magnetic~~ main pole major layer so as to receive the intermediate magnetic layer.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin-film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein a flat surface is defined on a surface of the intermediate magnetic layer so as to receive the tip magnetic layer.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~thin-film~~ single pole magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein said intermediate magnetic layer defines an inclined surface expanding outward from an outer periphery of the tip magnetic layer, a foot of the inclined surface being received on the ~~magnetic~~ main pole major layer.

9. (Canceled)